

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

### 1. OBSERVATIONS ON A REMARKABLE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN RHESUS MONKEY (*MACACA MULATTA VILLOSA*) AND THE HIMALAYAN LANGUR (*PRESBYTIS ENTELLUS SCHISTACEUS*) IN THE KUMAUN HIMALAYAS, INDIA

A large troop of langurs and a small one of rhesus monkeys were observed near Hanumangarhi hill, Nainital (in the first week of September 1978) to move together as one group in a remarkable manner. There were 22 langurs of various ages and sizes, while the rhesus monkeys were only eight in number. The troop of langurs consisted of two large males, two groups of eight adult females and younger langurs of different age groups, there being four baby-langurs in the group. The eight rhesus monkeys' group was made up of one large male (the leader), two large females, three smaller females and two baby monkeys.

They lived in a ravine, at a height of about 2000 m situated between two stands of mixed oaks, firs, Cypresses and conifers. To our utter amazement one large female langur was seen moving about on the ground, breast feeding a tiny rhesus baby of a dark brown colour with a short tail. While another older rhesus baby was riding piggy-back on a medium sized male langur.

The two large male langurs took up position, one on each side of the ravine, each on high boulder, as soon as they saw us. The females and younger langurs took to the trees and bounced about from branch to branch. But the larger ones remained on the rocks below with the rhesus monkeys, unperturbed even when we approached as close as fifty metres. The baby rhesus maintained their posi-

tions, one on the breast of an adult female langur and the other riding piggy-back on a young male. Four half grown baby langurs accompanied their mothers, who moved about leisurely at the foot of a tall tree.

However, the large male rhesus (very large for the species) ran up the slope and took up guard position on a rock. Thus the whole troop appeared guarded by three sentinels-two on the sides and one up behind the group.

On our approaching still nearer one male sentinel langur gave a sharp guttural note, at which all the langurs (with the two baby rhesus on them) bolted up the trees on the sides of the ravine and bounded from tree to tree. The rhesus monkeys on the other hand moved slowly (but in an alert condition) to the nearest trees, and climbing up about 3 metres above ground, sat watching us closely. The large male rhesus, however, did not move from its sentinal position and grinned at us. The entire action described above took hardly twenty minutes.

On our leaving scene, the rhesus male descended from its high perch and started foraging among the boulders and rocks and tree-roots, as it was doing before we disturbed them. The langurs and rhesus monkeys also came down to the lower branches of the trees, and started feeding on the new fruits, leaves and buds around them.

The amazing feature in our observations was the congenial atmosphere between the two

groups of primates of different genera. This close association appeared to be of mutual benefit, veering to commensalism (food sharing), a remarkable sight not observed by the authors in our experience of mammals.

This extremely remarkable co-operation in

danger and 'commensalism'; and even in community feeding of babies between two different genera of primates, appears to be a unique phenomenon not hitherto recorded in literature.

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## 2. OBSERVATIONS ON BIRTH OF A MUSK DEER FAWN

A musk deer was born at the Musk Deer Farm, Kufri (Simla) on 19th June 1979.

The mother had been captured as a young fawn in Mashnoo forest of Sarahan Forest Range in Kotgarh Forest Division, Himachal Pradesh. It was said to have strayed into a flock of grazing sheep. The shepherd caught the fawn and brought it to Simla on 3-7-1977. It is believed that the fawn was about 15 days old at the time of capture. It was bottle fed on cow's milk for about 4 months and then gradually weaned to regular feed.

Mating was noticed during December 1978, when the mother was 1½ years old. The fawn was born to it in June 1979 (17-6-1979) at the age of 2 years. The female was observed to be dull in her movements and reluctant to take her normal feed for 3 days before fawning. The mother had mated with a young male deer of about 1½ years of age. The male deer was also from the local stock, captured on 4-8-1977 in Throach forests of Chopal Forest Division, Himachal Pradesh.

The animal keeper saw the fawn hidden under the grass bedding at 10 O'clock on the morning of 17-6-1979. The mother as usual had left the night shed for morning feeding in the open enclosure. Perhaps the fawn was

born sometimes during the night as the fawn was reported to be dry and clean. The enclosure was also clean.

The fawn was shy and alert but made no attempts to run away.

The fawn was grey in colour having a soft, furry body with long hair. It had a whitish-light golden streak about 3.5 cm on the back, running from shoulder to the back and other thin white streaks on either side running parallel to it. Whitish under the throat extending to the belly. In proportion to the body it appeared to have comparatively long ears and looked more like a 'Mouse deer' with long ears.

Some measurements of the fawn taken on 19-6-1979 (after 54 hours of birth) were as under:

Total weight :	1 kg
Length: (total length tip of tail to tip of nose)	37 cm
Height at shoulder:	25 cm
Girth at Chest:	24 cm

The mother was observed suckling the fawn twice during the period 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The fawn was also fed once a day artificially with bottle milk.